GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:409
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2001
RARE COLLECTION OF NIZAM`S JEWELLERY TRUST
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had committed to the Supreme Court in November, 1997 that rare collection of gems and jewellery bought by the Government in 1995 from Nizam`s Jewellery Trust, would be kept at the National Museum;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in fulfilling the commitment;

(c) the time by which the rare collection is likely to be displayed at the National Museum, Delhi; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken at the National Museum for security of the rare exhibits ?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM & CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR)

(a) to (d) : During the course of the hearing of the litigation pertaining to the acquisition of Nizam`s Jewellery by the Central Government, the Supreme Court expressed the view that these items will become public property after their acquisition and therefore, the public should have a chance of viewing the heritage that was being acquired. At present, except National Museum, no other museum under the control of the Department of Culture, Government of India is equipped to display these valuable items.Even in National Museum the security has to be scaled up and security plans are being drawn for bringing the Nizam`s Jewelleryfrom RBI vaults, Mumbai where they are currently kept. These security plans are drawn in consultation with the Intelligence Bureau, Central Industrial Security Force, Ministry of Home Affairs, etc.